

## [Medieval Georgia]

## THE PEOPLE AND THE POWER

644 charge of all the King's Falconers and dogs and was over all the keepers of the royal woods.

The *Ezot-Modzghvari*, or Master of the Courtyard who had under his inspection all the workshops of the palace.

The *Mzarents-Ukbutsesi*, or Chief of the Cooks, who was over all the table-servants, the kitcheners, the bakers, water-carriers, musicians and dancers. He was later called by the Persian title of *Chunchirakhi*.

The *Momgherali-Ukbutsesi*, or Chief of the Singers, and the *Juaris-Mtvirtveli* or Cross-Bearer who was the King's messenger to the Catholicos and the Bishops; he also made public pronouncement of all penalties inflicted by royal command.

651. The royal revenues were derived from various sources. First, there were the feudal dues from the estates of the royal house which were paid in large part in kind, but also partly in money.

[436] Secondly, the Kings of Georgia and the earlier rulers of Iberia coined money for circulation in the realm. Gold and

652 silver was never found in any but negligible quantities within the country, and therefore the rarer metals used for coining and for the manufacture of objects of luxury came at all times from abroad. Large quantities of foreign coins were always in circulation in the country. Money was, however, minted in Georgia with intervals from the second century A.D. down even to the times of the paltry sovereignties of Mingrelia and Imereti, who according to Chardin, had their own mints.<sup>1</sup>

651  
439 Again, the Kings of Georgia and the later rulers of the divided Kingdom imposed customs dues on goods entering the country and on goods in transit. In Chardin's time there were customs levied at Iskaur (Dioscurias-Sukhum), in Abkhazeti and Fasso (Poti) in Mingrelia, and the insolence which he met from the Pasha of Akhaltzikhe's customs officers at Gonja was in the true tradition of the *douane*. There were also provincial and municipal customs where levies were made not only by the King, but by other authorities such as the Catholicos of Mtkheta or the chieftains of Osseti. Boat traffic on the Mtkvari and ferries over this and other rivers were subject to levy, and also caravans entering and leaving Tiflis and Gori.

651 Further, the Kings levied a miscellaneous collection of taxes of all kinds and descriptions. The *Dastulamali* gives a list of taxes paid to the later Kings of Kartli, together with the shares of these taxes to which certain court officials were

<sup>1</sup> Chardin (1686 ed.), pp. 91 and 106.

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

17

- 631 district Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministries of the Georgian SSR, and in the Autonomous Republics and the Autonomous Region - to the corresponding Ministries of the Autonomous Republics or the corresponding Departments of the Executive Committee of the Autonomous Region.

Art. 106. The Departments of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees to the district of Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees, and to the corresponding Ministries of the Georgian SSR, and in the Autonomous Republics and the Autonomous Region - to the corresponding Ministries of the Autonomous Republics or the corresponding Departments of the Executive Committee of the Autonomous Region.

Art. 107. The Departments of the Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Poti and Giaturs city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministries of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 108. The Departments of the Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministries of the Abkhazian ASSR.

Art. 109. The Departments of the Batumi city Soviet of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the city Soviet of Working People's Deputies and its Executive Committee and to the corresponding Ministries of the Adjara ASSR.

Art. 110. The Departments of the Staliniri city Soviet of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the city Soviet of Working People's Deputies and its Executive Committee and to the corresponding Department of the Executive Committee of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region.

Art. 111. On the expiration of the terms of office of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies their executive and administrative organs remain in office until the newly-elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter IX. The Budget of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

- 652 Art. 112. The state budget of the Georgian SSR is drawn up by the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR for its approval.

# [Constitution as of July, 1947]

18

652  
646 Art. 113. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR elects a Budget Commission which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Georgian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 114. Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR the state budget of the Georgian SSR is published for general information.

Art. 115. The report on the fulfillment of the state budget of the Georgian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR and published for general information.

652  
631 Art. 116. The budget of the Abkhazian and Adjara Autonomous Republics and the South Ossetian Autonomous Region and the local budgets of district, city, settlement and village Soviets of Working People's Deputies include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Georgian SSR.

## Chapter I. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 117. In the Georgian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR, the Supreme Courts of the Abkhazian and Adjara Autonomous Republics, the Court of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the People's Courts.

[643] Art. 118. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

Art. 119. The Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Georgian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Georgian SSR, the Abkhazian and Adjara Autonomous Republics and the South Ossetian Autonomous Region.

[646] Art. 120. The Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 121. The Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics are elected by the Supreme Soviets of the Autonomous Republics for a term of five years.

Art. 122. The Court of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region is elected by the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region for a term of five years.

Art. 123. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the district on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695  
563 Art. 124. Judicial proceedings in the Georgian SSR are conducted in the Georgian language, or in the languages of the Autonomous Republics or of the Autonomous Region, persons not knowing